

MINUTES of Water Advisory Committee  
For Meeting of February 4, 2002

Attendees:

Al Mazza, City of Sonoma  
Al Bandur, City of Sonoma  
Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park  
Armando Flores, City of Rohnert Park  
David Bently, North Marin Water District  
John Nelson, Water Resources Management  
Mike Martini, City of Santa Rosa  
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa  
Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa  
Dave Pinsky, City of Santa Rosa  
Krishna Kumar, Sonoma County Water Agency  
Randy Poole, Sonoma County Water Agency  
Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency  
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma  
Matt Mullan, Town of Windsor  
George Roberts, Forestville Water District  
Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District  
Steve Phelps, Marin Municipal Water District  
Ron Theisen, Marin Municipal Water District  
Syed Rizvi, North Marin Water District  
Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma  
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District  
Ellen Dowling, Sonoma County Water Agency  
Toni Bertolero, City of Cotati  
Jane Bender, City of Santa Rosa  
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District  
Pam Nicolai, Marin Municipal Water District  
Steve Simmons, City of Petaluma

Public Attendees:

Jim Downey, Penngrove Water Company  
Don McEnhill, League of Women Voters of Marin  
Bob Anderson, United Winegrowers  
Jo Timmsen, Tell the Truth  
Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

A. Call to Order

Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa, called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

## B. Introductions

The attendees made introductions.

## C. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## D. Approval of January 7, 2002 Minutes

Mr. Ferris motioned to approve the minutes, and Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

## E. Request SCWA compile MOU Table 1 Compliance report by each signatory

This item was tabled until the next agenda.

## F. Preliminary Water Transmission System Budget and Proposed Water Rates for FY 02-03

Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park, said he was pleased to see that bond financing was included in the budget.

Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District, asked if the rate increase was due to the increase in electricity costs. Krishna Kumar, SCWA, said that the budget for electricity was \$5.5 million, and that the cost was expected to be \$5 million. Mr. Ferris said that utilities should expect to make up some the debt incurred by the state for electricity.

Mr. DeGabriele asked if the power revenue was adjusted to reflect actual revenue and if the Agency was working with WAPA to acquire additional WAPA capacity. Mr. Kumar said yes.

Mr. DeGabriele asked if there were efforts to recover payments from the PG&E bankruptcy. Mr. Kumar said several private companies have made offers. Mr. Kumar also indicated the Agency is investigating the possibility of wheeling its Warm Springs power to its Wohler/Mirabel facility.

Mr. DeGabriele asked about the status of the Russian River projects fund, and Mr. Kumar said it had not changed.

Mr. DeGabriele inquired if the agency had added staff, and Mr. Kumar said they had not. Mr. DeGabriele said that approximately \$719,000.00 is proposed for transfer from the water transmission system O&M Fund for Collector 6 debt service. He wanted to know if SRF funding would be available for the Wohler-Forestville pipeline. Mr. Kumar said that it was doubtful.

Mr. DeGabriele asked if the \$500,000 common facilities line item for emergency power was referring to the Ely Booster Station, and Ms. Jeane answered yes.

Mr. DeGabriele inquired to the state of the Eldridge Madrone pipeline. Randy Poole, SCWA, said that a draft EIR would be out later this year and that the project would go to bid in late 2002 or early 2003. Mr. Poole said that two staff groups were each working on the Eldridge Madrone pipeline and South Transmission System Project.

Mr. DeGabriele inquired as to what the projects identified as 'Building Improvements' referred to. Mr. Poole said those were for telemetry upgrades. Pam Jeane, SCWA, explained only one vendor could work on the existing system, and that with the upgrades the agency would be able to do the work themselves.

Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District, said the cover letter that came with the budget had some confusing information regarding recycled water projects. Mr. Poole suggested that the subcommittee meet to discuss the recommended projects for the next year.

Mr. Ferris said he was concerned that the reserve be large enough to pay power costs. He was afraid that rates would increase and that utility companies would be hit hard. Al Bandur, City of Sonoma, asked if there was an indication that rates would be raised and Mr. Ferris said yes. Ms. Jeane said that was why the budget was kept at \$5.5 million.

There was some discussion on the legality of bond funding under the Master Agreement. Mr. Poole explained that under the existing agreement, 1 year of the O&M funds has to be set-aside with the bond trustee for the life of any bond issued under the existing bond ordinance.

Mr. DeGabriele suggested that the budget be set to be approved at the next meeting.

#### G. Proposed Notice/Agenda for New Agreement Negotiation Workshop # 3

Mr. Nelson told the committee that the next workshop is scheduled for February 28, 2002. He explained the chairs would be set up in a semi circle. Tom Jacobsen will move around the audience with a microphone. The workshop is intended to promote dialog between the public and the water contractors.

Mr. Nelson reminded the parties to the negotiation to bring comments back from their boards regarding the 56 responses to the next WAC meeting. Those comments will then be given to the drafters of the New Agreement. The following workshop will then be about the agreement first draft.

Mr. Harry said he was concerned with gravel mining being a topic at the workshop since as a collective group, the WAC has no control over it.

Mr. Ferris said that at the last workshop, when he had spoken to public attendees, they were ready to hear the contractors' opinions. Mr. Harry suggested that the public be informed of the extent of the Agencies and the contractors' powers.

Brenda Adelman, RRWPC, cautioned the committee to take into account all of the environmental and endangered species acts that would be decided in the next year, as they could affect the terms of the new agreement.

Matt Mullan, Town of Windsor, suggested conveying that the discussion of gravel mining should focus on how information is shared, not on whether it should be done or

not. He said that it might be helpful if the county's PRMD people come to answer questions at the workshop.

Ms. Bertolero asked the committee if the March 4 deadline for comments could be extended to March 15, as the City of Cotati council was scheduled to look at the responses and the vision statement on February 27. Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa, said that the review process was continuous and comments could be presented back to the WAC at any time.

Mr. Bandur asked what effect the inclusion of Windsor and MMWD in the New Agreement would have on ratepayers. Mr. Ferris answered that questions like those could be discussed as negotiations continued. Mr. Poole said that questions like those are difficult to answer, as they are a function of how the contract works.

There was some discussion about when the first draft of the New Agreement would be out. Mr. Poole said that the first draft should be ready by April 15, 2002. Mr. Nelson said the first draft should reflect comments from the boards and councils as well as from the dialog from the public outreach process.

There was discussion pertaining to the language of the first draft. Mr. Harry suggested that the agreement be written in lay terms initially, then be given to the SCWA attorneys. Mr. Ferris said that sometimes when you do that, the same thing will be listed differently throughout the document.

Mr. Nelson said the workshop agenda would be posted on the website and he hoped to see everyone there. Ms. Torliatt suggested that the WAC members who attended the workshop identify themselves when they speak so the public attendees would know who they are.

#### H. SCWA Water Policy Statement- Provide Information to WAC

On draft, timeline and input process

Mr. Poole said that a draft water policy would be sent to contractors by March 14 and considered at the next board meeting on March 25. Ms. Torliatt asked if it was possible to have an evening session of the board meeting, so that more people could attend. She also asked how the water agency was coordinating the water policy statement with the Sonoma County Water Resources CAC and WAC workshops.

Mr. Poole responded there are many stakeholders with water policy statement. Ms. Torliatt asked if he was coordinating and presenting the Water Policy statement to the other counties and Mr. Poole responded we are providing them with information, but we aren't making presentations unless they want them.

Ms. Adelman asked if the draft would include information from the biological assessment. Mr. Poole said it would include information from the Clean Water Act, and fisheries issues. He stated the BA Final Assessment, Alternatives report should be completed late summer. He suggested that each contractor make presentations of their own about the New Agreement.

*(Mr. Poole would like to review the above corrections at the next Water Advisory Committee meeting.)*

#### I. Projected Summer 2002 Water Supply Conditions

Ms. Jeane said normal conditions are expected for Russian River for the rest of the calendar year. Mr. Harry asked if the Corp. of Engineers has control over releases. Ms. Jeane said the Agency tells the Corp. what release to make from the water supply pool for in stream flows.

Ms. Adelman asked for an update on Collector 6 and Ms. Jeane replied that the conventional laterals were done.

#### J. Safeguarding Our Water Advertisements

Ellen Dowling, SCWA, said the Agency gave an update of the "Safeguarding Our Water" advertisements. Fourteen groups said they would participate at a cost of \$520 each. Drafts of the advertisements should be out in two to three weeks. She asked that any comments or questions be directed to her.

#### K. Santa Rosa Geyser Pipeline/Ag Recycled

Mr. Ferris said the pipeline is bid and contracted through winter. Sixteen miles of pipe are in the ground and the remaining forty-one are under contract. Two lawsuits are pending. With good conditions the pipeline will be completed in January 2003, and with bad conditions, July 2003. The oversized pipe allows for agencies to hook into the pipe and supply recycled water along the way to other users.

Mr. Harry asked how much the city was charging for recycled water. Mr. Ferris said it's free right now, but that 75% of retail water is the expected price. Mr. DeGabriele asked how much water could be recycled annually and Mr. Ferris answered 60% was average.

#### L. Other Business

Mr. DeGabriele asked when the last biological assessment report would be completed and Mr. Poole said it would be available in March.

#### M. Items for Next Agenda

Item E from the current agenda will be carried over.

#### N. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

DISTRIBUTION:

Brenda Adelman, RRWPC	Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Bob Anderson, United Winegrowers	Caroline Marker, City of Healdsburg
Joyce Arnold, North Marin Water District	Mike Martini, City of Santa Rosa
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma	Bill Massey, Forestville Water District
Al Bandur, City of Sonoma	Matt Mullan, Town of Windsor
Jane Bender, City of Santa Rosa	Gerry Nakano, West Yost
Paul Berlant, Town of Windsor	John Nelson, Water Resources Management
Toni Bertolero, City of Cotati	Joe Netter, City of Rohnert Park
Jo Timmsen, Tell the Truth	Steve Phelps, Marin Municipal Water District
Janice Cader-Thompson, City of Petaluma	Dave Pinsky, City of Santa Rosa
Geoff Cartwright	Randy Poole, Sonoma County Water Agency
Gail Chavez, City of Santa Rosa	Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa	Diane Reilly Torres
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District	Syed Rizvi, North Marin Water District
Jim Downey, Penngrove/Kenwood Water	George Roberts, Forestville Water District
Noreen Evans, City of Santa Rosa	Bill Robertson, City of Healdsburg
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa	Dana Roxon, Marin Municipal Water District
Jim Flugum, City of Healdsburg	Dale Shaddox, City of Cotati
Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park	Steve Simmons, City of Petaluma
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District	Fred Stouder, City of Petaluma
Tom Hargis, City of Petaluma	Ron Theisen, Marin Municipal Water District
Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District	Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma
Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency	Dell Tredinnick, City of Santa Rosa
David Keller	John Wanger, City of Cloverdale
Ruth Langridge	Renee Webber, Sonoma County Water Agency
Rose Leppert	Dave Willer, Valley of the Moon Water District
Robert Brownwood, California Dept. Health Services	Michael Burgess, California Dept of Health Services
Kiergan Pegg, Sonoma County Water Agency	Diane Lesko, City of Santa Rosa
Eve Perezselsky, Sonoma County Water Agency	Pam Nicolai, Marin Municipal Water District
Krishna Kumar, Sonoma County Water Agency	Jay Jasperse, Sonoma County Water Agency
Ellen Dowling, Sonoma County Water Agency	Armando Flores, City of Rohnert Park
Tim Anderson, Sonoma County Water Agency	

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